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to let the further development of the nation's life go on undisturbed or not" (pp. 218, 219). The militarism of European countries is decried as inconsistent with the socialistic evolution, not because war as such is to be deplored, but because war and armaments weaken a nation industrially, and hinder the process of industrial evolution. While no speculation as to the "future state" is indulged in, some reference is made to the probable future of certain institutions and to the attitude of the socialist toward these institutions. So, for instance, (pp. 203-4) socialism is said to hold an entirely neutral position with regard to religion, but this is uttered with an evident conviction that the church and the creeds are alien to socialism and irreconcilable with it in detail. Similarly, socialism is not unpatriotic, although it is international, but the patriotism of the German socialist is in abeyance through the government's fault rather than his own. Little is said about the family, but it is plainly implied that the traditional form of the family is in an advanced stage of obsolescence so far as regards the working classes. It is conceded that the marriage relation at present sanctioned by the law may for the present and for an indefinite time to come be the form best suited for the well-to-do classes.

T. B. VEBLEN.

L'Économie de l'Effort. By YVES GUYOT. Paris: Armand Colin et Cie., 1896. 12mo. pp. x + 320.

THIS work comprises a series of lectures delivered before the free College of Social Sciences in the period between the months of December 1895 and March 1896. In these lectures an attempt is made to treat of the fundamentals of economic science in a succinct manner. And to this attempt M. Guyot brings all that clearness of expression which is such an eminent characteristic of French writing. In the clear restatements of the author, however, nothing new appears. It is the standpoint which he occupies that especially attracts attention. It is refreshing in the present day, when the extension of government interference has won if not confidence at least toleration, to come across a writer who is a frank individualist. In developing his fundamental thesis, that the fitting economic ideal is to obtain the maximum of production and useful effect with the minimum of effort, he states a proposition which assuredly challenges the assent of all, but which in his handling of it gives an opportunity for making an attack on social-

ism. The attitude of M. Guyot towards socialism has already been indicated in his *Tyrannie Socialiste*, and in the present work he returns to the charge. Everything which savors of extension of government power is socialistic in its nature. The sole function of the state is to insure the individual security and liberty in the place in which he works (p. 311). Government activity should be limited so as to "bring a minimum of taxes, minimum of state privileges, minimum of government, minimum of administration" (p. 309). All movement towards socialism is, in his opinion, a negation of the principle of "economy of effort" which the economic evolution has been attempting to realize, and is therefore reprehensible. His opposition to the extension of government functions shows in his statement that "workmen's protection legislation" is unnecessary and unwarranted (p. 278). At the same time there is neither necessity nor justification for strikes; the workman always loses. A natural law ensures that where business is good wages will be high, and that where business is poor they will be low. No other principle need be sought (pp. 237-243).

The decided convictions of M. Guyot render his conclusions somewhat biased. He does excellent work in indicating the vagaries of the constructive side of socialistic thinking; his sweeping assertion that this thinking has exercised no practical influence does but scant justice to much that is valuable in the critical phase of socialistic thought. A protest against undue extension of government activity is timely, but the method which passes on all such extension on the ground of *a priori* assumptions is radically defective.

S. J. McLEAN.

La Viriculture. Ralentissement de la Population—Dégénérescence—Causes et Remèdes. Par G. DE MOLINARI. Paris: Guillaumin et Cie., 1897. 12mo. pp. 253.

THE motive of M. de Molinari's book is given in the subtitle, and it is a sufficiently curious motive for a book from an economist of his conservative position and wide range of learning. And the substance of the volume is perhaps no less curious, coming from such a source. The early chapters (i-viii) are taken up with an elementary exposition of the Malthusian premises, M. Molinari's contribution being a supplementary explanation—not altogether unfamiliar to Malthus—of how, as the outcome of the Malthusian factors, the population of Euro-